Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 167467 ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:RBARKLEY:DLJ
APPROVED BY PM - LESLIE H. GELB
PM/ISP - MR. HAWES
PM - MR. GOMPERT
S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----119470 010052Z /70

R 010020Z JUL 78 ZFF6 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BONN INFO WHITE HOUSE 0380

SECRETSTATE 167467

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL FROM GELB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, GW

SUBJECT: MCDONNELL DOUGLAS-MBB CRUISE MISSILE STUDY

- 1. AT THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST, I CALLED IN AMBASSADOR VON STADEN, JUNE 29, TO INFORM HIM THAT WE WERE GRANTING APPROVAL TO AN APPLICATION FROM MCDONNELL DOUGLAS TO UPGRADE FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO SECRET THE LEVEL OF DATA WHICH COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO MESSERSCHMITT-BOLKOU-BLOHM (MBB) IN THEIR ON-GOING STUDY OF TACTICAL NON-NUCLEAR AIR LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES
- 2. I STRESSED THAT, HAVING APPROVED THE MCDONNELL DOUGLAS UPGRADING REQUEST, WE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO BEGIN TO PLACE THE CONSIDERATION OF CRUISE MISSILE DEVELOPMENTS SECRET

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WITHIN A BROADER POLITICAL-MILITARY FRAMEWORK. I POINTED OUT THAT OUR PREVIOUS CONTACTS ON SUCH TECHNICAL INFORMATION HAD BEEN ONLY AT THE COMPANY-TO-COMPANY LEVEL AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ACCOMPANY THIS TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH AN EXCHANGE OF THINKING ON WHAT ROLE SUCH SYSTEMS MIGHT PLAY IN THE MODERNIZATION OF FRG AND NATO FORCES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER NATO FORCE DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO VON STADEN'S INQUIRY, I TOLD HIM WE WERE INTERESTED IN BOTH FUTURE AND ON-GOING PROGRAMS AND SUG-

GESTED THAT THE BEST CONTEXT FOR AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE AT OUR LEVEL HERE IN WASHINGTON. VON STADEN SAID HE WELCOMED THE US DECISION ON UPGRADING THE LICENSE AND WOULD REPORT OUR INTEREST IN POLITICAL DIALOGUE TO BONN. VANCE

SECRET

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